

What's New in the MPDC

FEBRUARY 3, 2003

HOMICIDES IN DC DECLINE SLIGHTLY IN JANUARY

The number of homicides committed in DC declined slightly during January. As of January 31, 2003, there were 15 homicides for the month, compared with 16 homicides in January 2002 and 20 murders in December 2002. The 15 homicides in January 2003 was the lowest monthly homicide total since April 2002, when there were 12 murders. In recent years, January has tended to be one of the more violent months in DC, with an average of 23 murders during the month of January between 1998 and 2002. Eight of the 15 homicides in January 2003 occurred in Regional Operations Command – East, which includes Police Districts 6 and 7. Twelve of the 15 homicides were committed with firearms; the other three involved knives. You can get an up-to-date count on homicides in DC, as well as other crime statistics, at:

The MPDC continues to seek assistance from the public in providing tips and clues on open homicides in DC. View pictures and descriptions of some of DC's Most Wanted at:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/mostwanted/mostwanted.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats.shtm

MPDC PHASING OUT SEVEN-DIGIT NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER; CALLS TO BE DIRECTED TO 3-1-1

In late February, the MPDC will phase out its seven-digit non-emergency telephone number – 727-1010 – and will instead direct all non-emergency calls to the 3-1-1 number. More than a decade ago, the MPDC launched 727-1010 as an alternative to 9-1-1 for residents who needed to contact the police in non-emergency situations. In January 2000, the MPDC implemented 3-1-1 as an easy-to-remember, toll-free non-emergency number for callers inside the District. Even with 3-1-1, the Department continued to maintain the 727-1010 number as a convenience to residents who were accustomed to using the seven-digit number and for use by callers from outside the District. Beginning February 24, however, callers to 727-1010 will be directed to hang up and call 3-1-1 for police non-emergencies or the Citywide Call Center, 727-1000, for other city services. Non-emergency callers from outside DC will be directed to call the MPDC on (202) 737-4404. As always, emergency calls should be made to 9-1-1. For more information about 9-1-1, 3-1-1 and other MPDC hotlines, log on to:

Both 9-1-1 and 3-1-1 are toll-free calls that can be made from wireless and pay phones.

mpdc.dc.gov/info/phone/phone.shtm

UPCOMING

“Ask the Chief.” Chief Ramsey takes phone calls and e-mails on various public safety issues during his monthly program on WTOP Radio (1500 AM), on Thursday, February 6, from 10 – 11 am.

THEFT SUSPECT WHO PREYED ON ELDERLY VICTIMS IS ARRESTED BY MPDC AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County Police, with the assistance of the MPDC, have arrested the woman believed to be responsible for more than 40 Theft by Deception cases in the DC Metropolitan area. On Thursday, January 30, members of the Montgomery County Police Repeat Offender Section (ROPE) and the MPDC's Warrant Squad arrested Kim Bernice Peoples, 42, of no current fixed address, inside an apartment building in the 3000 block of G Street SE. Since September 2002, Peoples has posed as a well-dressed, stranded-motorist who has locked her BMW keys in the trunk of her car. She feigns that she has airline reservations that she will not be able to use unless she can return to her home to obtain her second set of keys. Pretending to be a lawyer working for a DC law firm, Peoples asks her victims, most of whom are elderly, for money for cab fare. She promises to repay her victims and provides a telephone number to the law firm as collateral for payment. Peoples has conducted this scam in Montgomery County, DC, and Arlington and Fairfax counties, mostly near Metro stations. She has been charged with five counts of Theft and five counts of Identity Theft. Read the complete news release at:

Individuals who feel they may have been victims of this suspect should call Montgomery County Police at (301) 279-8000 or the MPDC's Financial Crimes and Fraud Unit at (202) 727-4159.

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

PUBLIC EDUCATION MATERIALS AVAILABLE ON CITIZEN COMPLAINT PROCESS

The MPDC continues to work at informing residents about changes in the process used to file and investigate complaints against Department members. The public education effort focuses on recent changes in the citizen complaint process, including the creation of the Office of Citizen Complaint Review. The OCCR investigates five types of complaints against MPDC officers: harassment; unnecessary or excessive force; inappropriate language or conduct; discrimination; and retaliation against an individual for filing a complaint. All other misconduct complaints continue to be handled by the MPDC's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR). Another reform expands the ways in which individuals can initiate a complaint, to now include phone, mail, fax, in person or

The MPDC has also developed various print materials on the citizen complaint process – in English, Spanish and various Asian languages. To request single or bulk quantities of these materials, please contact MPDC's Office of Corporate Communications: kevin.morison@dc.gov.

through forms posted on both the MPDC and OCCR Websites. In addition, for those complaints handled by the OCCR, conciliation and mediation are now possible outcomes. Detailed information about the citizen complaint process and use of force issues – including a downloadable copy of the PD 99 Citizen Complaint Report form – is available at:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/citizencomplaints/citizencomplaint.shtm

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with Crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV